NICHOLSONS Dr. John Alexander = Registrars McGill University ? January - June 1979

(003)

January 31st, 1918

J. A. Nicholson, Esq., LL.D.,
Registrar, McGill University.

Dear Dr. Nicholson:

I am sorry to find from your letter that Sir William Peterson shows so little improvement. When you see him next will you please give him my kind remembrances?

Were the minutes of the meeting not sent to you, for in them you will observe that the Universities sent forward a resolution to the Government asking that the Government should not only pay the maintenance of all returned men for not less than one year at the Universities, but that the Universities should be reimbursed by the Government for the special preparatory work that they undertake for these returning men. I think that if you will read the minutes, although I cannot for the moment lay my hands upon them, you will find that this is the substance of one or two of the resolutions. These were supported by the Great War Veterans Association.

With regard to your letter asking for material for the Universities' Conference it was also decided at that meeting that the Ministers of Education of the different provinces should be approached as to whether they would join with the Universities' Conference in a general conference on education next May. A

special committee was appointed to deal with this matter and a resolution, a copy of which I enclose, has been drawn up. I have seen Dr. Cody and he is willing to take part in such a conference, and I am waiting now to hear from President MacLean and President Murray before writing to Mr. Massey of the Repatriation Committee asking him whether they will summon the Conference to meet in Ottawa at the time when we have our Universities' Conference in May.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

610

January 27th, 1919

J. A. Nicholson, Esq., LL.D.,

Registrar,

McGill University, Montreal.

My dear Dr. Nicholson:

I have not heard anything of late with regard to the condition of Sir William Peterson except in a note from Lady Peterson some days ago in which she told me he was better. Would you kindly let me know whether there is improvement ?

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH

FORM T. D. 1

TELEGRAM

61

CABLE CONNECTIONS TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

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MONTREAL QUE MAR 4/19

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SIR ROBERT FALCONER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

TORONTO ONT

WILL GIVE SUMMER INSTRUCTION FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS WHO CANNOT MAKE GOOD THIS SESSION BUT FOR NO OTHERS HAVENT STAFF TO ORGANIZE FRESH YEARS WORK NOW AND USELESS TO DO SO AT CLOSE OF SESSION TWO OR THREE MONTHS SUMMER WORK WOULD LEAD NOWHERE

J A NICHOLSON

2834

March 22nd, 1919

Dr. J. A. Nicholson,

Registrar, McGill University,

Montreal.

Dear Dr. Nicholson:

I am enclosing to you a letter which on behalf of the Board of Governors and the Senate of the University of Toronto I am sending to the Honourable Mr. Calder urging upon the Government through him to give effect to the resolutions which were presented to the Repatriation Committee last January as the result of a Conference between representatives from some of the Canadian Universities and the Great War Veterans Association with members of the Repatriation Committee.

In substance these resolutions were to the effect that all returned soldiers who are competent to undertake the work should be granted aid to enter upon or resume their university education.

If you agree with the substance of this letter may I ask you to communicate with Mr. Calder in order that the matter may be brought to his attention with as great support as possible ?

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Chairman of the Committee of the C.R.T.A. in Ottawa, who

He was present at the

Conference.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

April
Ninth,
1 9 1 9.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir Robert,

According to the decision at the last conference of Canadian Universities, the conference will this year meet at the close of the sessions of the Royal Society and if the usual dates are selected, that would mean I should say that the work of the Royal Society would be finished on Thursday, the 22nd of May, and that the Universities' Conference would meet on the 23rd and run over until the 24th, if necessary. It was also decided that the afternoon of the day before the regular meeting of the Conference should be set apart for meetings of Committees so their reports would be in proper form for the full meeting. According to this, the Committees should meet on the afternoon of the 22nd. I suppose this would not interfere materially with the meeting of the Royal Society.

Our Convocation is to be held on the 22nd of May and it would be impossible for me to get to Ottawa any earlier than that night, so that I could not undertake the secretarial work if the Conference should meet before the 23rd.

I understand it is intended to bring the representatives of the Departments of Education of the several provinces together about the same time. I should think that the representatives of the Universities ought to attend this meeting, but it would mean a longer stay. Dr. Murray informs me that you are looking after this end of the business. You might be good enough to let me know what arrangements are made so that if I am to go to the Conference, I can govern myself accordingly. If the meeting should be arranged for some time before the 22nd, it would be quite impossible for me to attend, and I would in that case have to ask the President to get some person else to record the business of the meeting.

Yours very truly,

F.A. Nicholson

Registrar.

April 11th, 1919

Dr. F. C. Nicholson,

Registrar, McGill University.

Dear Dr. Nicholson:

If I am not mistaken last year we had the Conference of Universities on Thursday and we got through our work in the one day, the Royal Society having met on the Tuesday and Wednesday previously. This year I hope that the meeting of the Departments of Education of the various provinces will be on Friday, the 23rd. In that case the meeting of the Universities' Conference should be on Wednesday, the 21st. Such committee work as is necessary to prepare for would be done on Wednesday afternoon. I rather think that it would keep us too long in Ottawa to have the Conference of the Provinces on Saturday.

I should regret very much some not being able to be present on the 23rd, but we could probably have another secretary appointed for the day, and in any case you will have had the work all prepared beforehand.

I have not yet heard definitely from Ottawa whether the Repatriation Committee will summon the Departments of Education of the Provinces to meet on Friday, but I expect that will be done.

Yours sincerely,

President

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

May
Sixth,
1 9 1 9.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir Robert,

Dr. Ruttan informs me that it would be unwise to have a meeting of the Conference on the morning of Thursday, the 22nd instant, because the Royal Society meetings are at that time still in full swing. Moreover, Dr. King tells me there will be some meetings on the afternoon of the 22nd as well.

I had sent a draft of the notice and agenda paper down to the printer, calling the meeting for the 22nd, but Dr. Ruttan tells me to-day that it would detract from the success of the Conference if the meetings were held on Thursday morning. He is very anxious that it should be held on Friday, the 23rd. Should it be held on the 22nd there can, of course, be no representative of McGill present, as that is the date of our Convocation, unless it ~~can~~ be Dr.Ruttan who will no doubt be attending the sessions of the Royal Society and perhaps Dr. King,but as he has not been in touch with the work of these Conferences,he would probably not be of very much use. I am in quite a quandry. I see your point of view that those attending the Royal Society would not care to spend an extra night in Ottawa if the work could be concluded on the 22nd, and I see also that of those who do not wish to have the two meetings mixed up. Moreover, I believe that the great majority of those who attend the Universities Conference are not members of the Royal Society,and I do not think that the Conference should be made to depend so much on the meetings of the other body. I believe that the Conference meeting would be a greater success if it were held on Friday rather than on Thursday. If it were held on Friday, the work might be done in two sessions, starting, say, at 9 o'clock in the morning and 2:30 in the afternoon, so that everybody would be able to get away that night. As far as I am concerned, it makes no difference because some person could be secured to make arrangements for the meetings and take the minutes and afterwards write them up ready for publication. So my absence would not

6/5/19.

Sir Robert Falconer.

interfere to any extent with the success of the meetings, but it would be too bad I think that McGill should not be represented and yet I would hate to think that because of a desire for representation on the part of this University others might be detained in Ottawa longer than they wish. It is really very perplexing. Dr. Murray has, however, left the fixing of the date I understand and the making of other arrangements with you and I shall abide by what you say. I am only writing because those around the University to whom I have spoken, some of them like Dr. Ruttan ~~are~~ members of the Royal Society, are rather anxious that the meeting should be held on the 23rd rather than on the 22nd. We could not very well have the Convocation on the 21st. I am pretty sure we could not get things ready by that time, as everything is rushed as it is. If you, however, consider that the Conference should be held on the 22nd, I shall arrange accordingly in so far as I can.

I await your reply.

Yours very truly,

J. Cochrane

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

May 12, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir Robert,

You will notice that I put on the Agenda paper an address by Frank Beer of Toronto, although I am not sure that he has been decided on. I am not sure either whether I have the correct title or not. If he is to speak, would you kindly let him know the date and so forth.

Dr. Adams has cabled me to say that a report will be forthcoming from the Khaki University. I thought it would come in well before taking up the question of the education of the ex-soldier, as the intention is to link the two together.

Yours very truly,

Registrar

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May 15th, 1919

Dr. J. A. Nicholson,

Registrar, McGill University,

Montreal.

Dear Dr. Nicholson:

Will you be kind enough to arrange with the Chateau Laurier for a room in which the Conference may be held ? And will you be good enough then to let Mr. W. Frank Beer, Canadian Trade Commission, Ottawa, know where the meeting is to be ?

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

May 28, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir Robert,

When writing you yesterday I should have given you such information as I have regarding the enlistment of students as called for in the Agenda paper. As a matter of fact I did not hear from very many and the particulars which I did receive may not be very helpful, but they may enable you to form some estimate of what the scheme proposed would cost.

Laval (Quebec) reports an enlistment of 260, but they do not divide them by Faculties or ages. From the University of Alberta 238 undergraduates enlisted, of whom only 2 were under 18 and 38 under 19. The number from the Agricultural College of Nova Scotia was 150, of whom 12 were under 19. From MacMaster University 82 enlisted, none under 18 and 5 under 19. The enlistment from the University of Bishop's College was 37, of whom 5 were under 18 and 16 under 19. From the University of British Columbia 338 Arts undergraduates enlisted, 150 in Applied Science, and 4 in Agriculture,- a total of 492. Of these 101 were under 18 years of age and 147 under 19. As for McGill, the number of undergraduates who enlisted was about 800, of whom about 150 were killed, leaving a possible 650 to return. Of these only about 15 were under 18 years of age and 70 under 19. Of the 650 quite 150 have returned and have gone through this session's work, so that there are only a possible 500 left. Of these I think not more than 300 would require financial assistance; the majority of them would be in the Faculties of Applied Science and Medicine where the fees are highest, involving an expenditure, if fees and maintenance should be allowed for the year, of about $140,000. In addition to these there will be a great number who had not been to college at all who will need assistance, and I should say quite as

many more, which would call for an expenditure of the same amount. Indeed I calculate that for McGill between $200,000 and $250,000 would be necessary to meet the demand. The University of Toronto would require almost twice as much, and it looks as if fully $1,000,000 would be necessary. The decision of the Government to take charge of those under 18 and a little over will not affect a very large number, as the figures I have given indicate, but it will, however, help some and is better than nothing at all.

My suggestion at the Conference that if every other proposal failed the Government might be asked to apportion a sum for one year among the different Provinces, for the benefit of those who are unable for financial reasons to take advantage of higher education - that means any education beyond the public school - may not be as foolish as at first sight it appears. Under such a provision I am quite sure returned soldiers would get the lion's share, in every Province at any rate except Quebec, because they have not been in the way of earning for the last two or three or four years, as the case may be, whereas those who stayed at home were. The amount would, I suppose, have to be divided according to population, which would be rather unfortunate, but even so it would be better than no provision at all.

There ought to be considerable justification for such a procedure this year, as at this particular crisis in the history of the country there is the greatest need for giving the benefits of higher education to as large a number as possible. The Government would then be free from any suspicion of favouritism for the sake of soldiers, and I am sure their action would be widely approved. Of course I know this is not what we want, but it seems to me that if they will not listen to any other suggestion on behalf of soldiers something could be done along this line.

Yours very truly,

J. A. Nicholson

Secretary

June 14th, 1915

Dr. J. A. Nicholson,

McGill University,

Montreal.

Dear Dr. Nicholson:

I have gone over the draft of the last Conference of Canadian Universities and find nothing therein which I would suggest to be changed. It seems to me you have given a very good resume of what we did, and one is rather astonished at the amount of work we accomplished.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.